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□ 1837

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 52, I was unavoidably delayed by flight cancellations. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-23) on the resolution (H. Res. 92) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 247, TORNADO SHELTER ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-24) on the resolution (H. Res. 93) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 247) to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize communities to use community development block grant funds for construction of tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 526

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 526. My name was mistaken for the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROBERT BRADY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGETT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

IMPROVING SERVICE AND SAFETY OF FIRE FIGHTERS THROUGH THE ACCESS TO THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS ACT

(Mr. GRUCCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRUCCI. Madam Speaker, it takes approximately 28 minutes for responding fire fighters to search the average home by conventional means, which requires fire fighters to crawl on

their hands and their knees, feeling for victims. Thermal imaging cameras reduce the search time to 2 or 3 minutes, letting fire fighters see through the darkness to the location of the fire and, more importantly, to the location of the victims.

According to the National Fire Data Center, each year in the United States 5,000 people die and 25,000 are injured in fires, and approximately 100 fire fighters are killed annually in duty-related incidences. Thermal imaging cameras can help save the lives of both the victims of a fire and the fire fighters themselves. However, only a handful of our Nation's fire departments can afford the more than \$15,000 for this technology.

For this reason, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) and I have introduced the Access to Thermal Imaging Cameras Act, which authorizes the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, to make competitive grants to local fire departments for the purposes of acquiring thermal imaging cameras. Similar legislation was very popular with fire fighting organizations and had over 45 cosponsors in the 106th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in providing our local fire fighting departments with the opportunity to improve the quality of their lives and service.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MARKING 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREECE'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the country where democracy was born and where democracy returned 180 years ago.

March 25, 2001, marks the 180 anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Before then, Greece had been ruled by the Ottoman Empire for almost 400 years, during which time Greeks were deprived of their civil rights.

It is with great pride that Hellenic Americans recount the stories of how their ancestors in Greece stood together and fought against repression by continuing to educate Greek children in their culture, their language, and their religion, even under the threat of death.

This year, the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York has as its parade theme the Hellenic-American educational system. It is espe-

cially important that they are paying tribute to education, cultural heritage, religious learning, and the Hellenic-American values and ideals that are taught in the United States Hellenic parochial schools.

□ 1845

Education has always been the key to preserving Hellenic culture, values, and religion.

This year I have the honor of being selected grand marshal, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who cochairs the Hellenic Caucus with me, and Assemblyman Michael Giannaris from New York and California Secretary of State Phillip Ajjedilis and Honorary Grand Marshal Lucas Tsilas. We will have the privilege of marching with many members of my Astoria community, the largest Hellenic community outside of Athens.

The Hellenic and Phil-Hellenic community has a great deal to celebrate. They will celebrate the coming Olympics and the continued efforts of the Hellenic Caucus to seek a peaceful understanding with Turkey on the issues of the Greek Islands and Cyprus occupation. Here in the United States, we often take democracy for granted. In the world, there are still countries fighting for basic human rights. On this day of Greek independence, let us remember the words of Plato, and I quote: "Democracy is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike."

Is that not a great way to describe democracy?

The best way to express the feeling of the Hellenic community is the Greek National Anthem that tells of their struggle for independence.

I thank the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York for all of the contributions they have made to our community and in their efforts to make each year's Greek Independence Day celebration more exciting than the last. I know that I will remember this year. Zeto E Eleftheria. Long live freedom in Greece and in the entire world.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, today I, too, proudly rise to celebrate Greek Independence Day and the strong ties that bind the nations of Greece and the United States.

It was 180 years ago when the people of Greece began a journey that would mark the symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles to human dignity were first espoused. The word "democracy" stems from two Greek words: "demos," meaning "of